



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

VA to Hold Outreach Open House in Columbus, Neb.

OMAHA, Neb., April 25, 2013 — A Veterans of the Armed Forces Open House to provide rural-area Veterans information and assistance with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits and services takes place May 10 and 11 at the Platte County Agricultural Park, 822 15th Street, Columbus, Neb.

The VA is partnering with the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs, Veteran service agencies, county Veteran service officers and military transition assistance advisors.

Veterans and their family members with questions about benefits are encouraged to visit the open house between 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 10 or from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 11.

The goal is to increase awareness about VA and other benefits and services available to veterans, and to assist with applying for these benefits.

Representatives from the following agencies will be available to provide veterans assistance and information: VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System, Veterans Benefit Administration Regional Office, Vet Centers, Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Nebraska National Guard Transition Assistance Advisor. Community agencies that provide veteran services will also be available.

Veterans who are not currently enrolled for VA benefits are encouraged to bring their DD Form 214, "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty," to the open house to assist the agency counselors assess individual eligibility for VA benefits. VA counselors will assist veterans to complete eligibility and enrollment applications.

For additional information about the event, contact Will Ackerman at 800-451-5796, ext. 94719, or Eric Mullally, 402-563-4914.

The open house is targeted toward veterans who live in the following counties: Antelope, Boone, Butler, Colfax, Cuming, Hamilton, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Polk, and Stanton.

About VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System

The VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System's mission is to honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. VA NWHCS employees serve more than 161,000 Veterans in Nebraska, western Iowa and portions of Kansas and Missouri. The system includes a tertiary medical center in Omaha and a Community Living Center in Grand Island, Neb. Community-based outpatient clinics are located in Lincoln, Grand Island, North Platte, Norfolk, and Bellevue, Neb., and Shenandoah, Iowa; and a contract outreach clinic in O'Neill, Neb. For more information, visit <http://www.nebraska.va.gov>

For further information, contact:

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